

# INNOVATION FUND FOUNDATION



When the Innovation Fund began, Georgia wanted to create a way – outside of state and federal funding – to invest in promising educational innovations. In 2013, it did just that by creating [the Innovation Fund Foundation, Inc.](#) (IFF) in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 20-14-26. The IFF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that complements the work of the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) in supporting innovative education programs. The IFF is committed to improving student achievement in Georgia by funding innovative partnerships to redesign public education. The Foundation envisions that Georgia will be known as the state where innovators partner and invest to transform the educational experience so that all students have the opportunity to thrive as engaged citizens.

## Qualified Education Donation Tax Credit

In January 2018, Georgia announced a new opportunity for taxpayers to support the state’s public schools: the [Qualified Education Donation Tax Credit](#). Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-7-29.21, the Qualified Education Donation Tax Credit allows individuals and corporations to donate to the Innovation Fund Foundation, Inc. (IFF) and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit (not just a deduction) on their state income taxes. Each year, the IFF can receive up to \$5 million in donations, which it can utilize to provide grants to public schools to improve student achievement, with a priority on serving [schools identified in the bottom 5%](#) of performance. So far, the IFF has utilized these funds to support two grant programs: The Innovation Summit Pilot Grant and the Community Partnership Grant.

## Innovation Summit Pilot Grants

During the summer of 2018, the IFF collaborated with GOSA for the Innovation Summit by funding pilot grants to conference goers inspired by concepts and ideas presented at the Summit. The innovative programs addressed birth to age eight language and literacy development, blended and personalized learning, as well as teacher and leader development. The Foundation awarded six grants totaling \$39,260.90.



## Community Partnership Grants



To further impact outcomes for Georgia’s students, the Innovation Fund Foundation developed [Community Partnership Grants](#), its first grant opportunity that directly supports students’ academic *and* nonacademic needs. Community Partnership Grants provide between \$35,000 to \$75,000 over one to two years to public schools, school districts, and 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations that form strong partnerships to implement programs focused on one of the following priority areas.

Priority areas include:

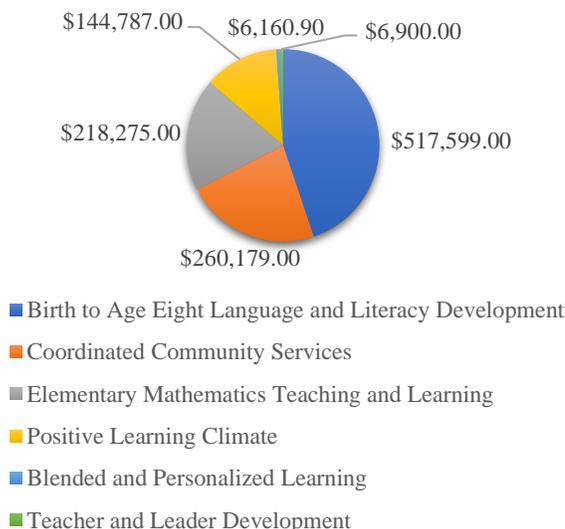
- Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy Development,
- Coordinated Community Services,
- Elementary Mathematics Teaching and Learning, and
- Positive Learning Climate.



In their first year, Community Partnership Grants have fueled innovative partnerships between schools, districts, community, state, and national organizations. The IFF encourages thought partnering year-round by reviewing and awarding grants on a rolling basis – in March, June, September and December.

The generous donations to the Qualified Education Donation Tax Credit allowed the IFF to award 23 grants – totaling \$1,153,900.90 – to help transform the educational experience of Georgia’s students. Grantees met the charge of cultivating partnerships by developing programs in conjunction with schools, libraries, mobile doctors, technical colleges, county health departments, local Housing Authority agencies, AmeriCorps, childcare centers, and organizations that educate minor parents.

**Table X. Investments by Priority Area**



For example, with the support of myriad partnerships, Communities in Schools, Augusta/Richmond County (CISARC) is providing wraparound services include health and vision support, clothing, shelter for students in Richmond County turnaround eligible schools. By involving the community, CISARC hopes to engage all stakeholders to positively impact students’ ability to learn.

Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership, in collaboration with Morris Innovative High School of Dalton Public Schools, has



designed a unique program to support the challenges of expectant and teen parents. This program will impact the school's learning climate by addressing social, emotional and education needs. Minor parents will receive support navigating parenthood while continuing their education through mentoring, college and career exploration, and parent education workshops.

Through strategic partnerships with the East Lake Early Learning Academy, Sheltering Arms, and the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy, Drew Charter School will launch a parent engagement series and cross-partner Professional Learning Community model. The partnership aims to maximize the long-term impact of early learning within East Lake's cradle-to-college pipeline.

### **Governor's Honors Program Educator Fellowship**

The Foundation also supports the [Governor's Honors Program](#) (GHP), a statewide residential summer program for gifted and talented high school students. In 2018, the IFF funded a new GHP initiative – The Governor's Honor Program Educator Fellowship. The fellowship will allow Georgia public school educators to gain insight into GHP to support student matriculation and success in the summer residential program.

To learn more about additional grants funded by the Innovation Fund Foundation, visit the [IFF's website](#).

*Impactful investments that support  
student achievement.*



## APPENDIX

### FY2018 Innovation Summit Pilot Grant Grantees

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Barrow County School System and Piedmont Regional Library</b>
<b>School District</b>	Barrow County School System
<b>Contact Name</b>	Ellen Petree
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language & Literacy Development
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$7,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Community Helpers at the Public Library</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	In this collaborative project, Barrow County School System will partner with the Piedmont Regional Library System to provide 18 Pre-Kindergarten classrooms a three-hour fieldtrip, lunch, and access to Chromebooks. Library information will be available before, during, and after the fieldtrip to educate students, teachers and families about the various resources available at public libraries. The school system will partner with the Winder, Auburn, and Statham library branches of the Piedmont Regional Library System.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Brantley County School System</b>
<b>School District</b>	Brantley County School System
<b>Contact Name</b>	Angela Haney
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language & Literacy Development
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$6,700.00
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Brantley County Kindergarten Literacy and Readiness Initiative</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	Brantley County's Kindergarten Literacy and Reading Initiative will introduce students and their families to a literacy-rich environment through a specialized reading curriculum, literacy workshops for parents, and in-home student resources. The program will target at-risk students in the community who need additional support in language and literacy.



<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Brantley County Middle School</b>
<b>School District</b>	Brantley County School System
<b>Contact Name</b>	Sarah Miller
<b>Priority Area</b>	Blended & Personalized Learning
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$6,160.90
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Flying Further</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	Brantley County Middle School (BCMS) will implement Flying Further, a program that will allow teachers to work with ten at-risk, overage seventh graders who have been retained. Flying Further will combine seventh grade and eighth grade curricula to give students the opportunity to enter high school in fall 2019 as freshmen.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>CDF Action</b>
<b>Contact Name</b>	Roberta Malavenda
<b>Priority Area</b>	Teacher & Leader Development
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$6,900.00
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>All About Our Children: Clarkston</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	CDF Action will pilot All About Our Children, which will address the needs of low-income students attending Early Learning Scholars in Clarkston, GA. The program will utilize a combination of strategies including conducting home visits, providing resources for families, providing teachers with coaching and professional development, and building community partnerships to help ensure students are prepared for kindergarten.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Lee County Family Connection</b>
<b>School District</b>	Lee County Schools
<b>Contact Name</b>	Patsy Shirley
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language & Literacy Development
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$7,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Wraparound Services for Students in Dougherty County Turnaround Schools</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	Literate Lee will work with Lee County Schools to hold a monthly book club with students at Kinchafoonee Primary School and Lee County Primary School. Students selected for the book club have a demonstrated need for additional support in the areas of language and literacy.



<b>Grantee</b>	<b>New Hope Elementary School</b>
<b>School District</b>	Henry County Schools
<b>Contact Name</b>	Tara Perryman
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language & Literacy Development
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$5,500.00
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Artists Reading Beyond the Text</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	Third graders at New Hope Elementary School in Henry County will partner with a local senior center to read grade-level novels to senior citizens. Using a combination of mentor texts, literary discussions, and artistic lessons, students will deconstruct meaning of a text and transform that meaning into a visual piece of art. By the end of the project, students will have created a grade-level mural and six individual pieces of art. This work will be showcased in a literacy gallery where students will celebrate and defend their work.



## FY2018 Community Partnership Grant Grantees

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Board of Control for the Southern Regional</b>
<b>Contact Name</b>	Dan Mollette
<b>Priority Area</b>	Elementary Mathematics Teaching and Learning
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$73,590.00
<b>Project Name</b>	SREB/Columbus Regional Mathematics Collaborative Joint Project to Support Elementary Teachers of Mathematics
<b>Project Description</b>	SREB will partner with the Columbus Regional Collaborative to work with schools in Talbot, Meriwether, and Chattahoochee counties to increase mathematics content knowledge for elementary teachers. The project will include content -based professional development, face-to face and virtual coaching, classroom observations, and research-based assessments to impact student achievement. SREB proposes to match funding for this project.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Boys and Girls Clubs of the CSRA - Thomson Club</b>
<b>Contact Name</b>	Christy Wallace
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy Development
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$75,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>GREAT Readers - Thomson Club</b>
<b>Project Description</b>	The Boys & Girls Club of CSRA- Thomson Club will extend its GREAT Futures Academy to include a focused literacy component- GREAT Readers- for McDuffie County students. Partnering with Maxwell and Thomson Elementary Schools, GREAT Readers will support literacy development outside of school. The project will also utilize community partnerships with East Georgia Housing Authority, Augusta Technical College, The Book Tavern, Serenity Behavioral Health and McDuffie County Health Department to impact the non-academic needs of students and families.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Boys and Girls Clubs of the CSRA – Washington County Club</b>
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$75,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	GREAT Readers- Washington County Club
<b>Project Description</b>	The Boys & Girls Club of CSRA-Washington County Club will extend its GREAT Futures Academy to include a focused literacy component - GREAT Readers. Partnering with Ridge Road Primary and Ridge Road Elementary Schools, GREAT Readers will support literacy development outside of school. The project will also utilize community partnerships with Washington County



	Head Start, Oconee Fall Line Technical College, The Book Tavern, and Serenity Behavioral Health, to impact students' and families' non-academic needs.
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<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Brooks Coleman Middle School</b>
<b>Priority Area</b>	Coordinated Community Services
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$45,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Coleman Biosphere
<b>Project Description</b>	Brooks Coleman Middle School will partner with HATponics and Duluth Co-Op to develop an alternative energy biosphere that utilizes aquaponics, traditional farming practices, and hydroponic systems to harvest crops for the community. Coleman Biosphere will assist HATponics in their mission of feeding 20 million people while allowing students to engage in hands-on STEAM activities and community services. Crops harvested by Coleman Middle School students will be donated to the Duluth Co-Op.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Chief Turnaround Office/State Board of Education</b>
<b>Organization</b>	Chief Turnaround Office/State Board of Education
<b>Contact Name</b>	Dr. Eric Thomas
<b>Priority Area</b>	Coordinated Community Services
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$70,930.00
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>The Innovation Network</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	The Innovation Network will support the Chief Turnaround Office's Coordinated Student Health & Wellness Strategy to execute the First Priority Act. Specifically, the Innovation Network will identify and provide mental and behavioral support to students while building capacity within districts in supporting nonacademic needs. This grant will also leverage partnerships to administer health assessments and provide referrals for additional care to over 700 students at Randolph Clay Middle School (Randolph County) and Cooper-Carver Elementary School (Terrell County).

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Coffee County School District</b>
<b>Priority Area</b>	Coordinated Community Services
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$69,349.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Why Try: Reducing Recidivism Rates in an Alternative Education Setting by Increasing Wrap-Around Services



<b>Program Description</b>	Coffee County School System will partner with Cord of Three Counseling Services to provide mental health services, social-emotional support, and substance abuse counseling to their most at-risk student population. By broadening accessible services through the school system, children and teens entering the Coffee County Alternative Education Center will be provided with student specific interventions services in an effort to decrease recidivism rates.
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<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Communities In Schools, Augusta/Richmond County</b>
<b>School District</b>	Richmond County School System
<b>Contact Name</b>	Laurie Cook
<b>Priority Area</b>	Coordinated Community Services
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$74,900
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Wraparound Services for Students in Richmond County, GA Turnaround Schools</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	Communities In Schools, Augusta/Richmond County (CISARC) will partner with Communities In Schools of Georgia and a coalition of partners, including the state Chief Turnaround Officer, Richmond County School System, Christ Community Health Services, Center for New Beginnings, Safe Homes, and AmeriCorps. The primary focus will be on nonacademic issues, such as social and emotional problems, that negatively impact students' ability to learn. These non-academic supports will ultimately improve school climate and student achievement.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>DeKalb County School District- Stoneview Elementary School</b>
<b>Contact Name</b>	Cassandra Davis
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$72,319.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Loving Literacy
<b>Program Description</b>	Stoneview Elementary School will partner with First Saint Paul AME of Lithonia, Hands on Atlanta, DeKalb County Library, and Kids Doc on Wheels to support student's literacy development needs. Early elementary teachers will engage in professional learning based on the Orton-Gillingham approach to increase student-centered instructional practices. Stoneview's community partners will further engage families through tutoring, healthcare services, learning sessions, and wraparound support.



<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Drew Charter School</b>
<b>Contact Name</b>	Don Doran
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy Development
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$57,748.00
<b>Project Name</b>	PREPPing for Success in Early Learning: Parent Engagement and Data Alignment
<b>Project Description</b>	Drew Charter School, East Lake Early Learning Academy, Sheltering Arms East Lake Center, and the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy will leverage an established partnership to launch a parent engagement series and cross-partner Professional Learning Community model. The partnership will maximize the long-term impact of early learning within East Lake's cradle-to-college pipeline. Along with the East Lake Foundation's Resident and Community Support Program, the project will increase early learning enrollment while enabling teachers and leaders to best use data to inform instruction.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Dublin City School District</b>
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy Development
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$64,362.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Language as a Missing Link for Grade Level Reading Outcomes
<b>Project Description</b>	Dublin City School District will partner with Georgia Association of School Nurses, Georgia Department of Education, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, and the Get Georgia Reading Campaign to train multi-disciplinary staff with knowledge and skills essential to: (1) recognize signals of children in pre-K through third grade indicating language delays, (2) implement screening protocols to determine the level of language development needs, and (3) use screening findings to inform classroom instructional practices that strengthen language development. The practices developed by this partnership will be integrated into the school district’s multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) and inform the creation of a series of freely accessible online learning modules and resources to increase the accessibility of these tools to all schools in Georgia.



<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Floyd County Schools</b>
<b>Grantee</b>	Floyd County Schools
<b>Contact Name</b>	Jennifer White
<b>Priority Area</b>	Elementary Mathematics Teaching and Learning
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$69,709
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Moving Up In Elementary Math</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	This program will focus on content and pedagogy in upper elementary math classrooms. In partnership with RESA, teachers will participate in six coaching cycles. These cycles will concentrate on utilizing data-driven and teacher-directed problems of practice strategies to support effective instruction of math standards. Teachers will meet as a cohort to engage in a professional learning session each cycle, followed by in-class coaching or feedback on videoed class segments.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Haven Elementary School</b>
<b>Priority Area</b>	Elementary Mathematics Teaching and Learning
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$74,976.00
<b>Project Name</b>	Gratifying Problem-Solving (GPS): Cultivating Learning Communities to Improve the Problem-Solving Skills of Turnaround Elementary School Mathematics Teachers and their Students
<b>Project Description</b>	Haven Elementary School will partner with Georgia Southern University's College of Education and College of Science and Mathematics to implement monthly professional development (PD) workshops within teacher-learning community (TLC) meetings to offer immediate responses to teachers' inquiries. The project will include math content-focused observation and consultation to aid teachers in identifying problems, while exploring, implementing, and revising solutions as collaborative working groups.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership</b>
<b>School District</b>	Dalton Public Schools
<b>Contact Name</b>	Greg Dent
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$71,970
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>The First Chapter</b>



<b>Program Description</b>	The First Chapter (TFC) is designed to form a collaborative pipeline of services and literacy-rich educational offerings in conjunction with its sister program, The Next Chapter (TNC). TFC focuses on those who attend MIHS, its Early Head Start (EHS), and its educators. TFC's primarily goal is to develop life-long learners by supporting literacy for its youngest children, while incorporating literacy-focused parent education for teen parents and language-inspired professional development for educators at EHS.
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<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership</b>
<b>School District</b>	Dalton County Schools
<b>Contact Name</b>	Greg Dent
<b>Priority Area</b>	Positive Learning Climate
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$73,666
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>The Next Chapter</b>
<b>Program Description</b>	The Next Chapter (TNC) is a collaborative pipeline of services and educational activities with its sister program, The First Chapter. This project will work in Morris Innovative High School (MIHS) to address the social, emotional, and educational needs of all students, while also having unique programs designed to support the challenges of expectant and teen parents. The Next Chapter will use a comprehensive collection of programs and services offered at the MIHS campus. These offerings will include mentoring, college and career preparation, incentivized positive behavior reinforcement, life and social skills training, and health and childcare education.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership</b>
<b>Priority Area</b>	Birth to Age Eight Language and Literacy Development
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$75,000.00
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Reach Out Roan</b>
<b>Project Description</b>	Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership will partner with Roan Elementary and the surrounding neighborhood of Roan in Dalton, Georgia to address issues of childhood literacy. The project will coordinate a cohort of diverse, yet complimentary, community partners to provide comprehensive educational services to the community. Reach Out Roan will offer a range of literacy-based programs for children and caregivers by maintaining a community access hub located within Roan Elementary School.



<b>Grantee</b>	<b>University of West Georgia Foundation, Inc.</b>
<b>Contact Name</b>	Haley Jackson
<b>Priority Area</b>	Positive Learning Climate
<b>Grant Amount</b>	\$71,121.00
<b>Project Name</b>	STEMDesign: Design Thinking for Elementary Teachers and Students
<b>Project Description</b>	The University of West Georgia Foundation and Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center (GYSTC) of West Georgia will collaborate with Haralson and Heard County Schools to provide students with a summer enrichment opportunity to engage in design thinking processes and STEM-focused project-based learning. Teachers will simultaneously participate in robust STEMDesign professional learning focused on effective pedagogy that incorporates design thinking, project-based learning, and student engagement.

